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IN THE CLAIMS

Please rewrite the claims as follows.

Clean Copy of Rewritten Claims

I 18 (Four Times Amended). A reproduction apparatus providing reproduction protection, for operating on main data which are conveyed by a data recording medium, the apparatus comprising:

means for detecting medium protection data which are specific to each of
5 one or more predetermined data portions within said main data and are also
conveyed by said data recording medium and wherein said data recording medium
conveys said medium protection data and said main data in an identical form;

67 means for detecting protection position information which specifies
respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as
10 positions at which to apply said reproduction protection, said protection position
information also being conveyed by said data recording medium;

means for generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said
reproduction apparatus;

means for defining a protection level based on said medium protection data
15 and said apparatus protection data in combination; and

means for executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said
protection level and said protection position information.

19 (Four Times Amended). A reproduction protection method providing

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reproduction protection, for operating on main data which are conveyed by a data recording medium, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting medium protection data which are specific to each of one or more
5 predetermined data portions within said main data and are also conveyed by said data recording medium;

wherein said data recording medium conveys said medium protection data and said main data in an identical form;

detecting protection position information which specifies respective
10 positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as positions at which to apply said reproduction protection, said protection position information also being conveyed by said data recording medium;

generating apparatus protection data which are specific to a reproduction apparatus operating on said main data;

15 defining a protection level based on said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data in combination; and

executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

20 (Four Times Amended). A data recording medium for transferring main data to a reproduction apparatus, to reproduce said main data by said reproduction apparatus, characterized in that:

said data recording medium further transfers medium protection data which

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5 are specific to each of one or more predetermined data portions within said main data and protection position information which specifies respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as positions at which to apply said reproduction protection;

wherein said data recording medium conveys said medium protection data
10 and said main data in an identical form

7 said reproduction apparatus generates apparatus protection data which are specific to said reproduction apparatus;

 said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data in combination specify a degree of restriction on said reproduction of the main data
15 by said reproduction apparatus, and

 said reproduction of the main data is executed in accordance with said degree of restriction, specified by said medium protection data transferred by said recording medium and said apparatus protection data, and in accordance with said protection position information transferred by said recording medium.

21 (Four Times Amended). A decoding apparatus providing decoding protection, for operating on information which is transferred by a recording medium and which comprises main data to be decoded and protection data, the apparatus comprising:

5 means for detecting said protection data, which are specific to each of one or more predetermined data portions within said main data and which are also

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transferred by said recording medium and wherein said recording medium transfers said medium protection data and said main data in an identical form;

means for detecting protection position information which specifies
10 respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as positions at which to apply said decoding protection, said protection position information also being transferred by said recording medium;

means for generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said decoding apparatus;

15 means for defining a protection level based on said protection data and said apparatus protection data, in combination; and

means for executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

22 (Four Times Amended). A decoding protection method providing decoding protection in a decoding apparatus, for operating on information which is transferred by a recording medium and which comprises main data to be decoded and protection data, the method comprising the steps of:

5 detecting said protection data, which are specific to each of one or more predetermined data portions within said main data and which are also transferred by said recording medium and wherein said recording medium transfers said medium protection data and said main data in an identical form;

detecting protection position information which specifies respective

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10 positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as positions at which to apply said decoding protection, said protection position information also being transferred by said recording medium;

Q ? generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said decoding apparatus;

15 defining a protection level based on said protection data and said apparatus protection data, in combination; and

executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

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30 (Twice Amended). The data recording medium according to claim 20, wherein said apparatus protection data comprises a first set of data and a second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user,

5 said first set of data is specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction apparatus is to be used, and said second set of data specifies operating condition information other than information which is specific to said region or country.

C 9
35 (Amended). A data recording medium as recited in claim 20, wherein said reproduction of said main data is restricted in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

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42 (Amended). The data recording medium according to claim 20, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents a predetermined sequence of one or more frames of said video signal.

43 (Amendcd). The data recording medium according to claim 20, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents one or more predetermined regions within each of a sequence of one or more predetermined sequential frames of said video signal.

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18 (Four Times Amended). A reproduction apparatus providing reproduction protection, for operating on main data which are conveyed by a data recording medium, the apparatus comprising:

means for detecting medium protection data which are specific to each of
5 one or more predetermined data portions within said main data and are also
conveyed by said data recording medium and wherein said data recording medium
conveys said medium protection data and said main data in an identical form;

means for detecting protection position information which specifies
respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as
10 positions at which to apply said reproduction protection, said protection position
information also being conveyed by said data recording medium;

means for generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said
reproduction apparatus;

means for defining a protection level based on said medium protection data
15 and said apparatus protection data in combination; and

means for executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said
protection level and said protection position information.

19 (Four Times Amended). A reproduction protection method providing
reproduction protection, for operating on main data which are conveyed by a data
recording medium, the method comprising the steps of:

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detecting medium protection data which are specific to each of one or more
5 predetermined data portions within said main data and are also conveyed by said
data recording medium;

wherein said data recording medium conveys said medium protection data
and said main data in an identical form;

detecting protection position information which specifies respective
10 positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as positions at
which to apply said reproduction protection, said protection position information
also being conveyed by said data recording medium;

generating apparatus protection data which are specific to a reproduction
apparatus operating on said main data;

15 defining a protection level based on said medium protection data and said
apparatus protection data in combination; and

executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said
protection level and said protection position information.

20 (Four Times Amended). A data recording medium for transferring main
data to a reproduction apparatus, to reproduce said main data by said reproduction
apparatus, characterized in that:

said data recording medium further transfers medium protection data which
5 are specific to each of one or more predetermined data portions within said main
data and protection position information which specifies respective positions of

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said predetermined data portions within said main data as positions at which to apply said reproduction protection;

10 wherein said data recording medium conveys said medium protection data and said main data in an identical form

 said reproduction apparatus generates apparatus protection data which are specific to said reproduction apparatus;

 said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data in combination specify a degree of restriction on said reproduction of the main data

15 by said reproduction apparatus, and

 said reproduction of the main data is executed in accordance with said degree of restriction, specified by said medium protection data transferred by said recording medium and said apparatus protection data, and in accordance with said protection position information transferred by said recording medium.

21 (Four Times Amended). A decoding apparatus providing decoding protection, for operating on information which is transferred by a recording medium and which comprises main data to be decoded and protection data, the apparatus comprising:

5 means for detecting said protection data, which are specific to each of one or more predetermined data portions within said main data and which are also transferred by said recording medium and wherein said recording medium transfers said medium protection data and said main data in an identical form;

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means for detecting protection position information which specifies
10 respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as
positions at which to apply said decoding protection, said protection position
information also being transferred by said recording medium;

means for generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said
decoding apparatus;

15 means for defining a protection level based on said protection data and said
apparatus protection data, in combination; and

means for executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said
protection level and said protection position information.

22 (Four Times Amended). A decoding protection method providing
decoding protection in a decoding apparatus, for operating on information which is
transferred by a recording medium and which comprises main data to be decoded
and protection data, the method comprising the steps of:

5 detecting said protection data, which are specific to each of one or more
predetermined data portions within said main data and which are also transferred
by said recording medium and wherein said recording medium transfers said
medium protection data and said main data in an identical form;

10 detecting protection position information which specifies respective
positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as positions at
which to apply said decoding protection, said protection position information also

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being transferred by said recording medium;

generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said decoding apparatus;

15 defining a protection level based on said protection data and said apparatus protection data, in combination; and

executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

30 (Twice Amended). The data recording medium according to claim 20, wherin said apparatus protection data comprises a first set of data and a second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user,
5 said first set of data is specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction apparatus is to be used, and said second set of data specifies operating condition information other than information which is specific to said region or country.

35 (Amended). A data recording medium as recited in claim 20, wherein said reproduction of said main data is restricted in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

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42 (Amended). The data recording medium according to claim 20, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents a predetermined sequence of one or more frames of said video signal.

43 (Amended). The data recording medium according to claim 20, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents one or more predetermined regions within each of a sequence of one or more predetermined sequential frames of said video signal.